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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

Commissioner Robert Martineau
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
Tennessee Tower, 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN
37243

July 13, 2017

Commissioner Martineau,

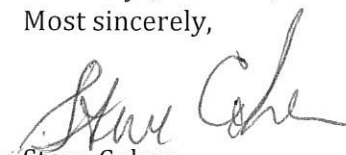
I am concerned about recent news that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) discovered high levels of arsenic and other harmful toxins in ground water within monitoring wells at the Allen Fossil Plant.¹ This contaminated ground water is only a short distance from where TVA recently drilled five 650-foot-deep wells into the Memphis Sand aquifer—the source of local drinking water—to supply its new natural gas-fueled power plant with cooling water. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has stated that they “are confident the contaminants found in the TVA wells at the Allen Fossil Plant are not impacting drinking water,” and the TVA noted that they are working with the State of Tennessee to “further investigate the contamination.”¹

I would appreciate your informing me:

- 1) How TDEC reached its conclusion that these contaminants are not impacting drinking water and the basis for its conclusion;
- 2) What TVA and TDEC are doing to ensure that these contaminants are not impacting, and will not impact drinking water;
- 3) What TVA and TDEC are doing to ensure that the Memphis Sand aquifer, a precious interstate resource, remains a viable source of drinking water.

Thank you for your assistance. Should you have any questions regarding these requests, please contact Patrick Cassidy in my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-3265.

As Always, I remain,
Most sincerely,


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Enclosures:

1. Letter to TVA President Johnson re: Public Comment Period on TVA Water Use (08/29/2016)
2. Letter to TVA President Johnson re: Concerns Over Water Use (10/18/2016)
3. Letter to TVA President Johnson re: Encouraging Further Study On Possible Detriments of Proposed Water Use (02/03/2017)

cc: President Bill Johnson, Tennessee Valley Authority

¹<http://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/2017/07/12/high-levels-arsenic-lead-found-beneath-tennessee-valley-authority-plant/470096001/>